

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT

PSD 5.06, Establishing or Changing Pest Rating

A.R.S. § 41-1091(B) Notice

This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona administrative procedure act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1033 for a review of the statement.

Arizona Department of Agriculture
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Plant Services Division

Establishing or
Changing Pest Rating

SECTION
5.00

CHAPTER
A

NUMBER
5.06

EFFECTIVE DATE
1 June 93

DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE
[Signature]

This policy supersedes the Establishing or Changing Pest Rating Policy issued in June of 1992.

Statute 3-201.01, Section A of the Arizona Revised Statutes (1990 ed.) reads in part as follows: "The associate director may, as authorized by the director: 1. Deal with noxious weeds, crop pests and diseases, ... 2. Enforce all rules and orders necessary ... 2(c) To control, eradicate or suppress a crop pest or disease".

In order to fulfill this statutory obligation, a pest policy must recognize the varying degrees of threat posed by different organisms to Arizona's agriculture, the environment and the public. The rating of a pest helps determine the nature, scope, intensity, timing and location of prevention activities. A Pest Evaluation Committee will evaluate potential pests as follows:

I. Committee procedure.

A. Committee responsibilities.

1. To investigate pests recently given an "X" rating to reclassify them as "A", "B" or "C".
2. To recommend any necessary changes in status of pests already rated.
3. To be receptive to recommendations presented by any interested party.
4. To make recommendations to the Associate Director of Plant Services, who will decide final pest ratings.
5. To meet at least every November, more if needed.

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B. Meetings to be chaired by Associate Director of Plant Services.

C. Membership.

1. Associate Director of Plant Services
2. Plant Services Administrative Services Officers
3. Biological Programs Manager, ADA Ag Lab
4. Additional members which may be chosen by permanent members.

II. Rating Considerations.

- A. Assessment of pest biology.
- B. Potential economic impact.
- C. Potential impact on public health.
- D. Potential impact on environment.
- E. Feasibility of proposed enforcement actions.
- F. Impact on cooperative agreements with federal agencies, municipalities, and other states.

III. Responsibilities of the Biological Section, State Agricultural Laboratory.

- A. To establish immediate "X" and "C" ratings on previously unrated organisms.
- B. To establish "W" ratings.

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- C. To provide biological assessments, based on Quality Assurance Guidelines of pests, when necessary, to the Pest Evaluation Committee.

IV. Rating Categories, Based on Biological Assessment.

- A. "A" rating - an organism of economic importance not known to be established in Arizona.
- B. "B" rating - an organism of known or potential economic importance with localized infestations in Arizona.
- C. "C" rating - an organism that is generally distributed throughout Arizona and/or is of no concern.
- D. "X" rating -
1. An organism whose potential economic impact is uncertain due to inadequacy of information about identification, biology, or pest status.
 2. An organism of known economic importance, but new to the pest rating list.
- E. "W" rating - non-agricultural pests (including those with possible risk to human health).
- F. "N" rating - target organism not found.
- G. "Z" rating - physical condition or physiological symptom present, but no organism found.